

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: September 23, 2009

SHERIFF'S FEDERALLY TRAINED DEPUTIES NAB ILLEGAL ALIENS FROM CHINA

Sheriff Arpaio Begs the Question; Who Else is Coming into the Country Illegally?

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff's federally trained deputies under the 287G agreement last night arrested five illegal aliens, four of whom were from the communist country of China. The arrest occurred during a traffic stop as a result of a human smuggling investigation in the North Valley.

Two of the four Chinese suspects admitted to deputies through interpreters that they were from the Fu Jian Province which is a state within China.

The Chinese suspects told deputies that their journey to the United States began when they boarded a plane in Beijing, China. They were also found to be in possession of Cuban currency which indicates the broad scope of the international problem involving human smuggling.

"If people are being smuggled into the United States illegally from a communist country like China through Mexico, who knows where else they could be coming from" Arpaio says.

The driver of the load vehicle who was from Mexico City admitted to deputies that he was paid to illegally transport the four Chinese suspects to Flagstaff where they would ultimately continue on to New York City.

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“These people appeared to be very well coached on what to tell deputies during questioning” says Sgt. Madrid of the Sheriff’s Human Smuggling Unit.

“This again proves that Maricopa County serves as the main hub for human smuggling operations in the United States and is ground zero in the fight against illegal immigration” Arpaio says.

Sheriff Arpaio stated that as a former high level federal official with the Drug Enforcement Administration, serving as the director in Mexico, Latin America, and the Middle East, that he is very concerned about the possibility of terrorists being smuggled across the Mexican border into the United States through places like Maricopa County.

Sheriff’s human smuggling deputies to date have arrested 3,365 illegal aliens from Latin America and Mexico, 1,611 of which have been charged through the Maricopa County Superior Court system on state felony human smuggling charges.

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